Writing Effective Leads and Conclusions

Adapted from Middle School Memoir

First and last impressions are so important when writing!! Make sure that you use effective openings and closings.

The following leads are all based on the narrator’s relationship with his favorite blanket. Perhaps you should

Good Beginnings…

**The Dramatic Lead**- Example: I wouldn’t make it through the night without it.

**Starting in the Middle of the Scene**- Example: I was sure we’d find the blanket ripped and dirty.

**Leisurely Lead**- Example: When I looked into my grandma’s linen closet, I was amazed by the patchwork of color. Never had I seen so many different blankets. There were soft, fluffy chenille ones and old worn brown ones. Some were still in their clear plastic wrap, while others seemed to sag off the edge of the shelf. Tucked in the middle, barely visible, with just a faded yellow corner sticking out, was the one I wanted.

**Beginning at the Ending-** Example: I joyfully pulled the tattered corners around me and sighed as I settled into the corner of the chair.

**Introducing the Narrator-** Example: I used to think I was different from everyone else- that I had a secret friend that no one else had. But, as I’ve grown older and shared some childhood memories with new friends, I’ve come to realize that lots of people had special relationships with inanimate objects. You know that special bear, t-shirt, pillow, or in my case, blankey? Yes, I admit it. I had a “blankie.”

**The Misleading Lead**- Example: Only insecure, immature baby’s need to drag their blankets around with them!”

Perhaps you should try and write a few of these as the leads to your piece.

Good Endings…

DO NOT ever end your pieces with statements such as these:

1. I hope you liked my story about…
2. Talk to you later.
3. …They lived happily ever after.
4. That’s all I know.
5. Suddenly, the alarm went off… I woke up and it was all a dream.
6. Thank you for your time.
7. The End!
8. I hope you liked my paper